



Delaware

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

DE-CW0406

April 24, 2006

Rains Improve Crop Prospects

Welcome rains over the weekend helped ease producer fears and will help spur small grain and hay growth that was stunted by the dry conditions. There were **5.0 days suitable** for fieldwork. Small grain condition remains generally fair to good. **Barley** is 35 percent headed compared to 26 percent last year. **Wheat** is 15 percent headed compared to 3 percent last year and average. **Corn** planting advanced to 21 percent complete, compared to 8 percent last week and 10 percent last year.

Vegetable planting is well underway. **Green pea** and **potato** planting was nearing completion while 18 percent of the **sweet corn** was planted and 11 percent of **snap beans** were planted.

Topsoil moisture improved to 41 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was mostly short to adequate with 17 percent very short. **Pasture condition** was reported as 12 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 32 percent good and 3 percent excellent. **Hay supplies** were comparable to last week with supplies mostly adequate to short.

DELAWARE'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2006 (PERCENT)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average 2001-2005
Planting Progress:				
Corn	21	8	10	13
Green Peas	82	76	61	69
Potatoes	94	77	47	54
Snap Beans	11	2	12	13
Sweet Corn	18	8	20	16
Watermelons	5	-	1	3
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	67	33	33	50
Peaches	93	57	85	70
Strawberries	39	33	10	24

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2006 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	41	55	4
Topsoil (2005)	-	12	82	6
Five Year Average	1	6	67	25
Subsoil Moisture	17	27	53	3
Subsoil (2005)	-	-	97	3
Five Year Average	4	12	67	17

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2006

Weather Station	Precipitation			Temperatures			
	Total this week	Total Since Jan 1	Departure from Normal Since Jan 1	High	Low	Average	Departure from Normal
Maryland							
Baltimore/Washington Airport	1.02	8.95	-2.92	83	45	61	7
Easton	1.33	9.08	-1.79	83	43	58	9
Frederick	2.74	11.39	-2.11	77	40	55	7
Frostburg	1.28	6.85	-3.83	80	42	57	5
Hagerstown	2.00	7.87	-5.52	81	40	58	3
Mechanicsville	1.82	6.94	-4.93	75	39	59	3
Patuxent River	1.00	6.11	-8.09	75	37	56	2
Ocean City	2.09	7.50	-6.22	80	33	58	4
Salisbury	1.48	8.37	-2.50	81	35	55	6
Sharpsburg	1.74	8.47	-3.71	82	47	60	6
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	1.81	8.83	-1.81	82	47	61	4
Delaware							
Dover	1.60	8.37	-4.14	81	43	59	5
Georgetown	1.37	6.77	-6.70	83	40	61	8
Wilmington	2.36	10.12	-1.80	82	43	59	6

Weather Data is provided by the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Auburn, Alabama and is considered preliminary.